



Photo by Cammie Eberts



Location - Begins at the junction of U.S. 12 and Idaho 11 on the Clearwater River at Greer.

Length - 42.5 miles. Allow 2.5 hours round trip.

Roadway - Idaho 11 is a two-lane, paved road with some passing lanes. It is well maintained with several turnouts for scenic viewing. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it - Throughout the year. Summer offers camping, fishing, riding, and hiking areas. Winter provides skiing and snowmobiling on 350 miles of groomed and open trails, maintained weekly.

Special attractions - Lewis and Clark historical sites; Weippe Discovery Center; Idaho's first county courthouse; Bradbury Logging Museum; Pierce City Library and historic downtown area; a Chinese cemetery; Bald Mountain Ski Area; and the Clearwater National Forest.

Camping - Three RV parks in Pierce, two in Weippe; campgrounds in Fraser Park and both Hollywood and Campbell's Pond. There are many camping areas in the surrounding Clearwater National Forest and the North Fork of the Clearwater River recreational area.

Services - Full services in Weippe and Pierce; partial services in Greer. Headquarters has no services.

Contacts - Pierce-Weippe Chamber of Commerce/Weippe Discovery Center: 208-435-4406, www.weippe.com; www.northcentralidaho.info, 877-DO-IDAHO; City of Pierce: 208-464-2222, www.ohwy.com/id/p/pierce.htm; City of Weippe: 208-435-4216 www.weippe.com.

Gold Rush Historic Byway

Rich in scenery, history, and wildlife, the route along Idaho 11 begins in Greer at the junction of U.S. 12 with an easy climb up the Greer Grade, providing a breathtaking, panoramic view of the Clearwater Valley. At the crest of the mountain lie the beautiful rolling fields of grains and grasses cultivated by local farmers. Just down the road is the historic town of Weippe, not far from where members of the Nez Perce Tribe met and fed starving members of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery in 1805.

Minutes later, the scenery changes again, as the vast fields transform into a lush forest thick with wildlife. Nestled among the trees is the town of Pierce, where early pioneers discovered gold in Idaho for the first time. It also boasts the state's inaugural government building, the old Shoshone County Courthouse. Other attractions include a logging museum, the city library's artifact collection from the adventures of Chinese miners in the area, and five more historical sites featured along the byway.

Twelve miles north of Pierce is the village of Headquarters, marking the end of the Gold Rush Historic Byway and the beginning of the area's other "gold mine" — the majestic and seemingly endless Clearwater National Forest.

